

# News

## From the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission

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### **KENTUCKY STATE NATURE PRESERVES COMMISSION CONDUCTS DEDICATION AND SITE VISIT AT HI-LEWIS PRESERVE**

FRANKFORT, Ky. (June 9, 2004) -- The Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission (KSNPC) today conducted a dedication ceremony, as part of their quarterly meeting, to add additional acreage to the Hi-Lewis State Nature Preserve (SNP). The Southeast Education Foundation dedicated 138 acres of land adjoining the Hi-Lewis SNP property.

With today's dedication, the Hi Lewis Pine Barrens State Nature Preserve now protects 302 acres of outstanding pine-oak woodland, dominated by pitch pine (*Pinus rigida*) and chestnut oak (*Quercus montana*), on the steep, mid to upper south-facing slope of Pine Mountain in Harlan County. Named for the stream that drains the area, this part of the mountain supports an extremely rare Pine Barrens community as well as a number of rare plants that are found in association with it. The open areas feature an unusual mix of plants typically thought of as prairie plants, such as little bluestem and Indian grass.

Rare plants found at this site include diminutive screwstem, frostweed, and the largest known Kentucky population of yellow wild indigo. Spanning 1,000 feet in elevation from the base of the mountain to the ridge crest, the preserve also protects flowering and fruiting American chestnut trees, Hemlock-mixed Mesophytic Forest, and massive sandstone outcrops and cliffs. The 138 acres dedicated today includes the remaining portion of the high quality pine barrens that KSNPC has sought to protect.

The Commission commended the Southeast Education Foundation for protecting for perpetuity this unique feature of Kentucky's natural heritage. KSNPC chairperson Clara Wheatley stated, "The Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission is pleased to partner with the Southeast Education Foundation on this nature preserve to protect this ecologically significant natural area."

After a lunch break, attendees had the option to travel to the Hi-Lewis preserve for a site visit. This preserve is not open to the public.

More information about the commission can be obtained by mail (KSNPC, 801 Schenkel Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601-1403), by telephone (502) 573-2886 or on the Internet ([www.kynaturepreserves.org](http://www.kynaturepreserves.org)).